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Casey Criticized at Funeral

Bishop Faults Central America Policies

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NEW YORK, May 9—Former CIA director William J. Casey was criticized by his bishop at his funeral today as a man who did not understand the "ethical questions" raised by his church about national defense policy.

Delivering his homily before a congregation that included President Reagan and members of the Cabinet, Bishop John R. McGann faulted administration policies in Central America, which Casey had been instrumental in carrying out.

"Bill must have thought us bishops blind to the potential of a communist threat in this hemisphere as we oppose and continue to oppose the violence wrought in Central America by the support of the contras," he said.

"These are not light matters on which to disagree. They are matters of life and death. And I cannot conceal or disguise my fundamental disagreement on these matters with a man I knew and respected," said McGann, the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre.

But, he added, "I believe that given the world as he saw it, Bill was seeking to do what was best for the United States and for the freedom which allowed him to worship God openly as a Catholic believer."

More than 300 dignitaries crowded the small brick St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Roslyn Harbor as police kept crowds, including demonstrators, at a distance of about five blocks from the church.

The president and Nancy Reagan sat in the front row of the church, with former president Richard M. Nixon to their left. Casey's wife, Sophia, and daughter Bernadette sat across the aisle.

Behind Reagan sat FBI Director William H. Webster, nominated to succeed Casey as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Defense Secretary Caspar W. Wein-

berger. Other officials attending included Attorney General Edwin Meese III, Interior Secretary Donald Hodel, Energy Secretary John S. Herrington, Budget Director James C. Miller III, national security adviser Frank C. Carlucci, Acting CIA Director Robert M. Gates and U.N. Ambassador Vernon Walters. Former White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan and contra leader Adolfo Calero also were present.

Casey was eulogized by former U.N. ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick, who said, "He lived his life to the hilt and left it in the spirit of a man who was ready . . . and not afraid of the devil . . . he was a bold, committed man in an age of controversy."

Kirkpatrick added, "Supporting Nicaragua's freedom fighters had a special priority for him. No question about it. But that had no more priority than law."

McGann noted that he and Casey had known each other for many years and been at odds on U.S. foreign policy. A church spokesman described McGann as active in the antiwar movement of the 1960s and as a demonstrator against nuclear weapons. In his homily, McGann praised Casey for his charitable works.

Reagan, a longtime friend of Casey, did not speak. Just before communion, Reagan and Nixon chatted and shook hands when the bishop asked the audience to greet one another and "share Christ's peace."

Casey died Wednesday, the day after retired Air Force major general Richard V. Secord, the first witness in the congressional hearings on the Iran-contra affair, said the former CIA director helped in an operation to send weapons to the Nicaraguan contras after Congress had prohibited such aid.

His death leaves many questions regarding the sale of U.S. arms to Iran unanswered, and congressional critics this week suggested that he knew more about the Iran-contra affair than anyone except two former National Security Council officials, John M. Poindexter and Oliver L. North.

When the Iran-contra investigation began last November, Casey said he knew little about the Iran initiative and had nothing to do with the diversion of up to \$30 million to the contras.

On Dec. 15, he collapsed from a brain seizure and was rushed from his CIA office to a Washington hospital, where doctors performed surgery to remove a cancerous brain tumor. He resigned from the CIA on Jan. 29, and returned to New York. His death this week was attributed to pneumonia brought on by a lymph cancer. He was 74.

A self-made millionaire tax lawyer, who headed the Securities and Exchange Commission during the Nixon administration, Casey had returned to Washington in 1981 with the Reagan administration to take the CIA post. He had helped manage Reagan's 1980 campaign.

Burial was in Westbury at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Security in the town of Roslyn Harbor, a quiet, wealthy enclave on suburban Long Island, was tight as police blocked off Bryant Avenue leading to the church.

Staff writer Margot Hornblower contributed to this report.